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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000031

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
Turkish trade delegation to Baghdad - Hurriyet
Ankara believes 'Swiss model' fit for Iraq - Milliyet
Critical visit: Gen. Myers to Turkey - Turkiye
Erdogan tough on Denktas - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS
Military build up on Iraqi border - Cumhuriyet
Heavy Iraq traffic: Gul to Mideast, Myers to Turkey -
Radikal
Turkey, U.S., Israel exercise 'Reliant Mermaid' - Zaman
Parliamentary Speaker mediates to end hunger strikes in
prisons - Yeni Safak

FINANCIAL JOURNALS
U.S. considers \$61 billion in aid for Iraq's neighbors -
Dunya
2003 predictions: \$1=TL2 million, inflation 25 percent,
interest rates 40 percent - Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

Iraq: Dailies report increased Turkish military activity near the Iraqi border. The U.S. is preparing to transfer an additional 50,000 troops to the Gulf region, papers report. Reports claim that the Iraqi embassy in Ankara has presented a note to MFA, protesting Prime Minister Gul's comments to media representatives last week in which he referred to Saddam Hussein as a 'ruthless dictator.' The Iraqi embassy and MFA have denied these reports. Turkey's Foreign Trade Minister Kursat Tuzmen is due to visit Baghdad with 150 businessmen and MFA officials on January 10. Tuzmen will convey a letter from Gul to Saddam Hussein, and discuss trade issues with the Iraqi Administration. In a front page commentary, "Milliyet" speculates that Ankara prefers a 'Swiss model' for a post-Saddam Iraq, where Kurds, Arabs and Turkomen would have their own cantons tied to a central authority in Baghdad. Ankara believes that this model could prevent the disintegration of Iraq. "Radikal" quotes a 'U.S. source' saying that the U.S. was not against a 'modus operandi' for site surveys on Turkish bases, but that details of an agreement still needed to be worked out. The source said that the US expected a response from Ankara regarding transfer of U.S. troops to Iraq via Turkey before January 26, when the initial report by UN arms inspectors will be unveiled. Whether Turkey will ultimately decide on full or limited support, the U.S. needs to know about Ankara's decision in order to shape its own policy, the U.S. source reportedly said. Radikal believes that recent developments and the latest NSC decision indicate that Ankara will provide partial support to the U.S.

General Myers' visit: Papers report that U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, will visit Turkey on a regional tour of eight countries in January. Gen. Myers will meet with Chief of Staff Gen. Ozkok, and explore possibilities for using Turkish airbases and harbors, according to reports.

Erdogan on Cyprus: AKP leader Erdogan said that Cyprus is not Denktas's personal issue, and that the AKP government would not stick to Turkey's traditional Cyprus policy. Erdogan noted that while Denktas believes that the UN-sponsored Cyprus plan is negotiable, he views the Greek Cypriots as unreliable. 'We must put aside suspicions, and begin negotiations for compromise,' Erdogan noted. The recent protest demonstration against the status quo by 30,000 Turkish Cypriots indicates that northern Cyprus is 'heading somewhere,' Erdogan said, and he warned of grave difficulties if a solution is reached before February 28.

President approves constitutional changes: President Sezer approved a package of constitutional reforms which pave the way for Erdogan to run for parliament in the new election in Siirt. Sezer had earlier vetoed the amendment package on the grounds that it was tailored particularly for Erdogan. The High Election Board (YSK) announced on Wednesday that the election in Siirt will be held on February 9.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Swiss Model for Iraq"
Fikret Bila wrote in mass appeal Milliyet (1/2): "Turkey remains firmly opposed to a Kurdish state in Iraq. Turkey has given this warning as part of a strong message to the US. The message also included Ankara's concern about the possibility that Iraq's oil-rich regions could fall under the control of a particular ethnic group or the US. Such a scenario would be totally unacceptable for Turkey. . Turkey has been working on several scenarios for Iraq in the post-operation era. An Iraqi 'federation' is not Ankara's immediate preference. Turkey's preference for Iraq is a Swiss-style system based on cantons. Turkey believes that a cantonal structure would not only serve the interests of Kurds and Turkomans, but also make them attached to a central authority, which will prevent the dismemberment of Iraq. The plan is supported by the Turkish military as well as the Foreign Ministry. Ankara remains in close contact with the US on the Iraq issue, and hopes that its views and proposals for the future of Iraq will be taken into account by Washington."

"The reason for saying NO to war"
Fehmi Kuru argued in Islamic-intellectual Yeni Safak (1/2): "The drawing of borders in the Middle East and the regimes that were put in place there all resulted from the demise of the Ottoman Empire and decisions made by the Western powers. The western powers defined and designed the status quo in the region based on their interests. Today they are once again trying to redesign it based on their current needs and interests. Turkey has been the loser from the last century's imperial plans. And today once again the western powers want Turkey to fall into this trap. This is exactly why the people of Turkey are loudly saying NO."

PEARSON